

By: Woolley

H.B. No. 2703

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to interference with the duties of a public health professional; providing a criminal penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 38.15(a), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if the person with criminal negligence interrupts, disrupts, impedes, or otherwise interferes with:

(1) a peace officer while the peace officer is performing a duty or exercising authority imposed or granted by law;

(2) a person who is employed to provide emergency medical services including the transportation of ill or injured persons while the person is performing that duty;

(3) a fire fighter, while the fire fighter is fighting a fire or investigating the cause of a fire;

(4) an animal under the supervision of a peace officer, corrections officer, or jailer, if the person knows the animal is being used for law enforcement, corrections, prison or jail security, or investigative purposes;

(5) the transmission of a communication over a citizen's band radio channel, the purpose of which communication is to inform or inquire about an emergency; [~~or~~]

1           (6) an officer with responsibility for animal control  
2 in a county or municipality, while the officer is performing a duty  
3 or exercising authority imposed or granted under Chapter 821 or  
4 822, Health and Safety Code; or

5           (7) a person with responsibility for assessing,  
6 enacting, or enforcing public health, environmental, or safety  
7 measures in a county or municipality while the person is performing  
8 a duty or exercising authority imposed or granted under Chapter 81,  
9 121, 341, 343, 344, 361, 365, 366, 382, 431, 432, 433, 437, or 438,  
10 Health and Safety Code, or Chapter 7 or 26, Water Code.

11           SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
12 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
13 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
14 covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the  
15 former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of  
16 this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of  
17 this Act if any element of the offense was committed before that  
18 date.

19           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.